

# Lighthouse C



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## Apostle Islands National Lakeshore

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# **Lighthouse Curriculum**

## **Apostle Islands National Lakeshore**

### **Acknowledgments**

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# VISION AND PURPOSE of THE LIGHTHOUSE CURRICULUM



Resources in every community and from every landscape are composed of both natural and cultural elements woven so tightly together that to separate them dilutes the truth of their union. Lighthouses symbolize humanity's interrelationship with, reliance upon, and respect for nature. They demonstrate one way that humans interact with the earth.

From Acadia National Park in Maine to Cabrillo National Monument in California, lighthouses are preserved in at least 15 different units of the National Park System. In the Midwest, lighthouses are found at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, Isle Royale National Park, and Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. These high profile historic sites attract thousands of visitors every year.

Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, with its collection of six historic light stations, has more lights than any other National Park Service site. These lights have attracted the attention of teachers in schools throughout northern Wisconsin. Teachers have found a variety of ways to include the lights of the Apostles in their classroom curriculum. Some are able to include class visits to a lighthouse in their annual program.

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This comprehensive curriculum guide encourages the use of lighthouses as a focal point of school curricula throughout the region and around the country. Many of the topics and activities included in the curriculum may be used by groups studying any of the lighthouses in the National Park System. Although activities are designed for the specific area of the Apostle Islands, the themes can be adapted and applied to any lighthouse. The curriculum will improve students' understanding and appreciation of lighthouses, and increase awareness of the National Park Service and the role it plays in preserving and protecting the country's resources.

## **Introduction to Organization and Table of Contents:**

This curriculum is organized into four thematic areas: Purpose of Lighthouses, Life of an Island, Life of Keepers, and Stewardship. Each major theme area is divided into a pretrip, trip, and post-trip activity. These themes connect the curriculum to our overall vision and purpose. A student workbook is used to track activities completed in each unit of the curriculum.

This curriculum is flexible and can be used in many ways. It can be taught as part of a "theme month" using the attached "additional resources", or it can be taught in a few days centered around a day-long trip to a lighthouse. The length of the overall program and each of the activities can easily be adapted to fit your classroom needs. Each theme can stand on its own.

## **Note to Teachers:**

### **"The Lighthouse Keepers Log Book"**

Keeping a journal was an important daily activity for lighthouse keepers (see "Blackening the Stoves" lesson plan on page C-2). According to the 1902 edition of the Instructions to Lightkeepers ... "The journal kept at light stations shall be considered as the official record of the station where it belongs, and no entries or signatures shall be made in it by any person or persons except the keepers of the station, the officers of the lighthouse district, and officers of the Lighthouse Board. A watch book must be kept also at all stations where there is more than one keeper, and a fog signal record where there is a fog signal. In keeping the journal, two pages (the right and the left), are to be used for one month. The events of the day must be written on one line across both pages. As a general rule, if carefully written, one line will be found sufficient. The visits of the inspector or engineer, or of the lampist or machinist, and an account of any work going on or delivery of stores, must be noted; as also any item of interest occurring in the vicinity, such as the state of the weather, or other similar matter. The books must be kept in ink, with neatness, and must always be kept up to date."

An excellent activity to help tie all the lessons in this curriculum together is to have students keep their own daily journals or "log books". Blank pages have been included in the appendix titled the "Lighthouse Keepers Log Book" to help facilitate journaling. The observations asked for include date, weather and temperature, duties and activities, reflections and observations. Feel free to copy as many of these sheets as necessary for the students in the class.

## **"Scribing"**

An interesting technique to facilitate student participation in several of this curriculum's activities is the art of "scribing". For centuries, a scribe was a "public secretary or clerk" given the task of recording, in picture or word, the laws, scriptures or stories of a culture.

Within the classroom, this activity becomes a cross between illustrated vocabulary and elaborate graffiti. As students brainstorm ideas, review content, or predict outcome, scribing provides a visual representation of information, as well as a written record of progress.

A large white board, large sheets of rolled paper, chalkboards, or poster board may serve as the writing surface for the class. One to three students at a time may serve as the "scribe". Give each student two or three multicolored markers to use. As the class discussion or lesson progresses, ask each scribe to listen for an idea (or give students specific ideas) to illustrate on the scribing board. Encourage very little use of written words, while asking students to represent the ideas with images. Rotate "scribes" to allow each student the opportunity to scribe.

Scribing boards should be visible to the whole group as the discussion progresses.

Scribing allows students not only the opportunity to be physically involved with the thought process, but also gives non-scribing students a visual image as they are hearing the material.

Throughout this lighthouse curriculum, scribing is a very effective means of reinforcing class discussions relating to knowledge of lighthouses, lighthouse facts, highlights of the island tour, and various aspects of a lighthouse keeper's life.

Scribing records may be rolled and stored, or displayed on classroom or hallway walls.

# Lighthouse Curriculum

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A. PURPOSE OF LIGHTHOUSES .....	A - 1 through A - 35
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II.   A Trip To Remember (Trip)	
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B. LIFE OF AN ISLAND .....	B - 1 through B - 19
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III.  Do You Know a Champion Tree? (Posttrip)	



C. LIFE OF KEEPERS .....	C - 1 through C - 46
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E. APPENDIX / STUDENT WORKBOOK.....	E - 1 through E - 24
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